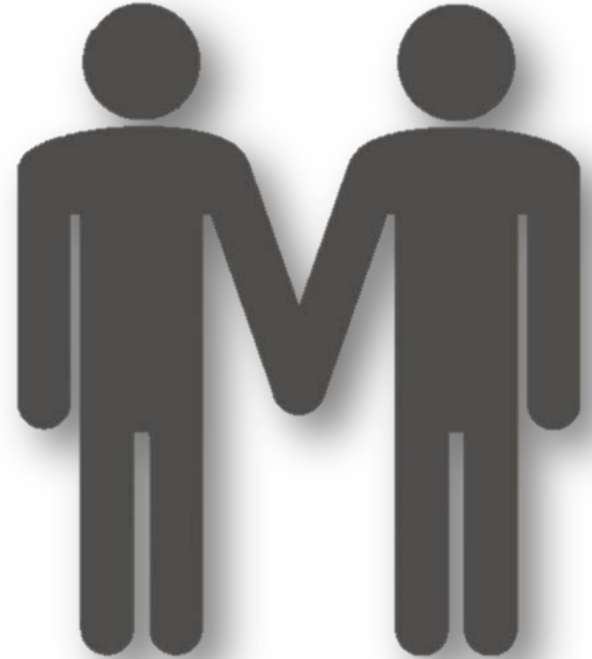


Meningococcal Disease in Men who have Sex with Men

Who should get the Vaccine?

Recent LA County data shows more cases than usual of meningococcal disease among men who have sex with men (MSM). MSM have relationships with other men whether or not they identify as gay or as married. This sheet describes the disease, who should get vaccinated, and where to get vaccinated.



1. What is meningococcal disease?

Meningococcal disease is a rare, but serious disease. It's caused by bacteria (germs). It can lead to serious problems like:

- Meningitis (swelling in the brain and spinal cord)
- Loss of a limb (arm or leg)
- Deafness
- Brain damage
- Death

2. What are the symptoms of meningococcal disease?

It can start with influenza (flu) symptoms and may cause these, too:

- High Fever
- Headache
- Stiff Neck
- Rash
- Nausea
- Vomiting
- Sensitivity to light
- Confusion

3. How can you prevent meningococcal disease?

Vaccination is the best way to prevent this disease. These healthy habits help prevent infection:

- Get plenty of rest
- Don't share items that spread saliva, like utensils, food, drinks, or cigarettes
- Avoid close contact with people who are sick

4. Who should get the meningococcal vaccine?

After discussion with state and federal public health partners, the LA County Department of Public Health recommends that these groups of MSM get the meningococcal vaccine:

- All HIV-positive MSM
- All MSM (regardless of their HIV status) who have close contact with many partners or who find partners by using digital applications "apps," mainly those who share cigarettes, marijuana, or use illegal drugs.

5. How many doses of the vaccine should the listed MSM groups get?

Who should get it?	Number of doses
HIV-positive MSM who never got a meningococcal vaccine	2 doses of the vaccine (spread apart by 8 or more weeks)
HIV-positive MSM who got 1 dose of meningococcal vaccine as a child or teen	1 dose of the vaccine now
MSM (regardless of their HIV status) with many sex partners who never got a meningococcal vaccine	1 dose of the vaccine now
MSM (regardless of their HIV status) with many sex partners who got a dose as a child or teen 5 or more years ago	1 dose of the vaccine now

6. Where can you get a meningococcal vaccine?

Where can you get it?	More information
Your personal doctor or health care provider	<p>Please go to your regular doctor if you...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Have health insurance • Are an HIV-positive Ryan White Program eligible individual <p>We recommend that health plans cover meningococcal vaccines for their members.</p>
Pharmacies	<p>Meningococcal vaccines are offered at some pharmacies. Call your pharmacy to check...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Whether they have the vaccine • What time they open and close • Who can get the vaccine • How much it costs <p>Links to pharmacies that may offer vaccinations are posted at http://flushot.healthmap.org</p>
Los Angeles County Department of Health Services (DHS) clinics	<p>MSM who don't have health insurance may call their local DHS clinic to see if they qualify for services and if the vaccine is available. Dial 2-1-1 for referrals to DHS clinics or visit http://dhs.lacounty.gov/wps/portal/dhs/locations</p>
Los Angeles County Department of Public Health (DPH) clinics	<p>DPH is holding free vaccine clinics for the identified MSM groups. Clinic dates, times, and locations are posted at www.publichealth.lacounty.gov</p>

7. Where can you go for more information?

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
www.cdc.gov/meningitis/index.html

California Department of Public Health
www.cdph.ca.gov/healthinfo/discond/Pages/MeningococcalDisease.aspx

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